

Subpart 1819.72 - NASA Mentor-Protégé Program

Source: 74 FR 25672, May 29, 2009, unless otherwise noted.

Parent topic: [PART 1819 - SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS](#)

1819.7201 Scope of subpart.

(a) This subpart implements the NASA Mentor-Protégé Program (hereafter referred to as the Program) established under the authority of Title 42, U.S.C., 2473(c)(1). The purpose of the Program is to:

(1) Provide incentives to NASA contractors, performing under at least one active, approved subcontracting plan negotiated with NASA, to assist protégés in enhancing their capabilities to perform as viable NASA contractors, other Government contractors, and commercial suppliers on contract and subcontract requirements.

(2) Increase the overall participation of protégés as subcontractors and suppliers under NASA contracts, other Federal agency contracts, and commercial contracts; and

(3) Foster the establishment of long-term business relationships between protégés and mentors.

(b) Under the Program, eligible entities approved as mentors will enter into mentor-protégé agreements with eligible protégés to provide appropriate developmental assistance to enhance the capabilities of the protégés to perform as subcontractors and suppliers. NASA may provide the mentor award fee incentives. Additionally, this subpart explains the calculated subcontracting credit for a mentor-protégé program pursuant to FAR 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan.

1819.7202 Eligibility.

(a) Eligibility of Mentors: To be eligible as a mentor, an entity must be -

(1) A large prime contractor performing with at least one approved subcontracting plan, other than a commercial plan, negotiated with NASA, pursuant to FAR Subpart 19.7, the Small Business Subcontracting Program. A contractor may apply to become a mentor if they currently are not performing under a NASA contract as long as they are currently performing another Federal agency contract with an approved subcontracting plan. The NASA mentor-protégé agreement, however, will not be approved until the mentor company is performing under a NASA contract with an approved subcontracting plan; and

(2) Eligible for receipt of Government contracts. An entity will not be approved for participation in the Program if, at the time of submission of the application to the Headquarters Office of Small Business Programs, the entity is currently debarred or suspended from contracting with the Federal Government pursuant to FAR Subpart 9.4, Debarment, Suspension, and Ineligibility.

(b) Eligibility of Protégés: To be eligible to participate as a protégé, an entity must be -

(1) Classified as a Small Disadvantaged Business (SDB), a small disadvantaged business, a women-owned small business, a historically underutilized business zone concern, a veteran-owned, service-disabled small business, a historically black college and university, or a minority institution. The protégé entity may also be an active NASA SBIR/STTR Phase II company, or an entity participating in the AbilityOne program.

(2) Eligible for the award of Federal contracts; and

(3) A small business according to the Small Business Administration (SBA) size standard for the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code that represents the contemplated supplies or services to be provided by the protégé to the mentor.

(c) A protégé firm may self-certify to a mentor firm that it meets the requirements set forth in paragraph (b) of this section. Mentors may rely in good faith on written representations by potential protégés that they meet the specified eligibility requirements.

1819.7203 Mentor-protégé advance payments.

If advance payments are contemplated, the mentor must first have the advance payments approved the contracting officer in accordance with FAR Subpart 32.4, Advance Payments for Non-commercial items.

1819.7204 Agreement submission and approval process.

(a) To participate in the Program, entities approved as mentors in accordance with 1819.7203, will submit a complete agreement package to the Contracting Officer who will forward the completed agreement package to the cognizant Small Business Specialist at the NASA Center. The submission package must include the following -

(1) A signed mentor-protégé agreement;

(2) A signed protégé application;

(3) The estimated cost of the technical assistance to be provided, broken out per year and per task, in a separate cost volume; and

(4) Additional information as may be requested by the NASA OSBP; and

(5) A signed letter of endorsement of the agreement by the contracting officer and the contracting officer representative.

(b) The mentor-protégé agreement must be approved by the Assistant Administrator, NASA OSBP, prior to the mentor incurring eligible costs for developmental assistance provided to the protégé.

(c) The cognizant NASA center will issue a contract modification, if justified, prior to the mentor incurring costs for developmental assistance to the protégé.

1819.7205 Award Fee Pilot Program.

(a) Mentors will be eligible to earn a separate award fee associated with the provision of developmental assistance to NASA SBIR/STTR Phase II Protégés only. The award fee will be assessed at the end of the Mentor-Protégé agreement period.

(b) The overall developmental assistance performance of NASA contractors, in promoting the use of small businesses as subcontractors, will be a required evaluation factor in award fee plans.

(c) Evaluation criteria to determine the award fee should include:

(1) Benefit of the agreement to NASA;

(2) Active participation in the Program;

(3) The amount and quality of developmental assistance provided;

(4) Subcontracts awarded to small businesses and others;

(5) Success of the protégés in increasing their business as a result of receiving developmental assistance; and

(6) Accomplishment of any other activity as related to the mentor-protégé relationship.

(d) The Award Fee Pilot Program is an addition to the credit agreement. Participants that are eligible for award fee may also receive credit under their individual contract's award fee plan.

1819.7206-1819.7211 [Reserved]

1819.7212 Reporting requirements.

(a) Mentors must report on the progress made under active mentor-protégé agreements semiannually throughout the term of the agreement.

(b) Reports are due 30 days after the end of each six-month period of performance commencing with the start of the agreement.

(c) Each semiannual report must include the following data on performance under the mentor-protégé agreement:

(1) Expenditures by the mentor.

(2) The number and dollar value of subcontracts awarded to the protégé.

(3) Description of developmental assistance provided, including milestones achieved.

(4) Impact of the agreement in terms of capabilities enhanced, certifications received, and/or technology transferred.

(d) Semiannually, the protégé must provide an independently developed progress report using the semiannual report template, on the progress made during the prior six months by the protégé in employment, revenues, and participation in NASA contracts during each year of the Program participation term. The Protégé must also provide an additional post-agreement report for each of the two years following the expiration of the Program participation term.

(e) The protégé semiannual report required by paragraph (d) must be submitted separately from the Mentor's semiannual report submission.

(f) Reports for all agreements must be submitted to the NASA OSBP Mentor-Protégé Program Manager, the mentor's cognizant administrative contracting officer, and their cognizant center small business specialist.

(g) Templates for the semiannual report and the Post-Agreement report and guidance for their submission are available at: <http://www.osbp.nasa.gov>.

1819.7213-1819.7214 [Reserved]

1819.7215 Solicitation provision and contract clauses.

(a) The contracting officer shall insert the clause at 1852.219-77, NASA Mentor-Protégé Program, in:

(1) Any contract that includes the clause at FAR 52.219-9, Small Business Subcontracting Plan.

(b) The contracting officer shall insert the clause at 1852.219-79, Mentor Requirements and Evaluation, in contracts where the prime contractor is a participant in the NASA Mentor-Protégé Program.